United Nations E/2005/NGO/8

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
24 May 2005

Original: English

Substantive session of 2005
New York, 29 June-27 July 2005
Item 2 of the provisional agenda*
Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities

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The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2005/100.

05-36039 (E) 160605

Statement

To achieve the **Millennium Development Goals (MDGs),** proposed by the United Nations (UN), is one of the biggest challenges of Humanity. Much has been accomplished, but the present situation of our planet requires higher efforts and engagement of the nations, their peoples and their leaders.

With the purpose of contributing to the overcoming of this global challenge and carry out such objectives in Latin America, the Legion of Good Will (LGW) — that holds general consultative status at the Economic and Social Council of the UN —, has mobilized the organized civil society to divulge this important campaign, to discuss the challenges that we have ahead of us and, consequently, to stimulate partnership actions for the fulfillment of the MDGs.

With 55 years of experience, the LGW developed and presents, in this occasion, the **Solidary Society Network.** Beginning with intersectoral actions, involving combined and cooperative work among governments, companies and civil society, the network is formed in a regional field to enable the inclusion of local communities in the sustainable socioeconomic development.

In contribution to the High Level Segment 2005, we present the result of recommendations collected through virtual surveys and meetings, held in the months of March and April of this year, in three Brazilian cities (São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Brasilia) and in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

In the meetings, the participating organizations had access to the national reports produced by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in partnership with the Brazilian and Argentinian governments in 2004. The World Parliament of Ecumenical Fraternity (ParlaMundi), of the LGW, located in Brasilia/DF, gathered contributions of 234 NGOs, geographically representing two countries and 33 cities. Together, in a democratic, ecumenical and participative process, the organizations present to the United Nations, head of States, commissioners, illustrious participants of the High Level Segment 2005 of the ECOSOC the following recommendations:

Goal 1 — Eradicate extreme poverty and Hunger

To consolidate the social assistance system of the Government and form networks made up by the civil and private sectors.

To encourage intersectoral partnerships for the increase of the professional qualification, the creation of jobs, identifying the needs of the society and market demands for the guidance of the processes of qualification. Special attention to the street population and ex-prisoners.

To invest in cooperative societies for needy families, identifying local potentialities.

To qualify agro-nourishment education multipliers and increase communitarian vegetable garden projects, that allow the application of foods and alternative medicine, by phytotherapy and eatable herbs.

To divulge nutritive foods re-utilization methods, (foliage, peels, etc) that are usually thrown out and could be used in nourishment, stimulating conscious consumption and generating less waste.

To optimize resources destined to civil society's non-profit organizations and make available information of state, national and international funds for social projects, besides fostering the civil society as supervisor of these investments.

Goal 2 — Achieve Universal Primary Education

The offering of vacancies in public school needs to be followed by the guarantee of quality teaching. This guarantees education for all and avoids the symbolic granting of diplomas to children that finish their first cycles of basic education without knowing how to read or write.

The adult literacy classes, as a direct and indirect way of promoting education in the family, which consequently benefits the infantile education.

To valorize education as a transversal theme, highlighting the importance of the quality of the education of the professionals, of the methodologies used, of the schools and equipment. The schools in regions of higher social risk are in urgent need of an interdisciplinary team in the areas of psychology, social service and pedagogy, which can spread the consciousness of cultural diversities as collective richness, banishing prejudice.

To reinforce government assistance programs.

To reinforce, in several ways, including through the media, the exercise of ethical, moral and universal values, embodying the alliance of school-family-community in the educational process.

To include in the schools curriculum grid, programs of quality of life, citizenship, environmental consciousness, challenges of the millennium and the important roles of the child-youth.

Goal 3 - Promote gender equality and empower women

The initiatives that valorize women need to be highlighted permanently. It is necessary to create space for discussions and reflections within the schools, media, companies, government, churches and organizations about the roles of the genders, valorizing the companionship between men and women.

To improve the access of women to public policies; promote the institutional strengthening of the organisms that support them; to level the salary between the genders, promoting the ascension of women to relevant job positions and make available social instruments in support of working mothers are some of the items that should be appear in the Social Statute directed to women, as a guiding and protecting instrument.

Goal 4 - Reduce child mortality

The fight against the causes of child mortality goes through a series of intersectoral actions in the areas of nutrition, education, sanitation, habitation and access to health services. It is necessary to have technical courses of improvement and humanization in dealing with the mother and the newborn.

To provide other (low-cost) nutritional sources for people, in school lunches and in hospital meals, based on what has been already studied, developed and tested by the Brazilian nutritional research.

Campaigns to stimulate breast-feeding, vaccination and care for the baby should be permanently shown in the media.

To decentralize the health system, increasing the number of community agents, introducing first-aid stations and mobile units that give aid to cities and communities that do not have infrastructure, nor people to help with this matter.

Goal 5 - Improve maternal health

Improvements in maternal health depend on intersectoral partnerships that promote the quality of life and health of the pregnant women. The challenge is to guarantee the fulfillment of prenatal exams, priority care, qualification and humanization of the professionals involved.

To spread information about family planning, premature pregnancy, contraceptive methods and other issues.

To work with couples to benefit the development of the pregnancy, showing the importance of their union in favor of the pregnant woman and the child.

To promote qualification and financial assistance to midwives and health agents in places of difficult access, not contemplated by the public health system.

Goal 6 - Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases

To preserve successful policies in the combat against AIDS and other diseases, such as the break of patents in the manufacturing and trading of anti-AIDS medications by the Brazilian government and the World Health Organization (WHO).

To strengthen and stimulate the researches in the universities and integrate the centers of reference with the civil society to obtain more information about the disease.

To make the citizens aware about safe sex, AIDS and other diseases, through educational campaigns, lectures and distribution of prevention methods.

To put into effect the transversal themes in national curricula related to these diseases to expand the awareness among the students.

To guarantee public health, free and of quality to all.

To intensify initiatives of support to HIV patients and divulge them in the media to guarantee appropriate care and psychological support.

Goal 7 –Ensure environmental sustainability

To improve environmental public policies, in contrast with the current economic model, in all of the productive sectors.

To improve and accomplish the environmental legislation, by increasing the fiscalization, control and monitoring of the environment.

To plan better living conditions of low-income families who live in poor settlements and reverse the process of transforming the big cities into slums, investing in environmental sanitation actions.

To look for electrical energy alternatives, as a way to avoid the impact of the hydroelectric stations on local communities and on the environment.

To promote campaigns on the responsible consumption of ecologically feasible products and the use of clean technologies (for example, biogas).

To broaden the awareness about garbage selection, recycling, organic fertilizer factories, reforestation, reintroduction of endemic species of the fauna and flora.

To divulge the Agenda 21 in the schools and promote environmental education to encourage the eco-development, as a way of prevention that offers jobs and improves the quality of life of the populations.

To exchange environmental models among the countries, sharing information.

Goal 8 - Develop a global partnership for development

To integrate public and private organizations, promoting intersectoral partnerships and the creation and strengthening of all types of networks.

To develop public policies that strengthen and stimulate the network initiatives, regulating and supporting the management of programs and projects.

Broad divulgation of policies of the public (municipal, state and federal) and private sectors, as well as possibilities for contracts and partnerships of an international character.

To enforce public policies in the micro-regions so that migration does not become an option for improving life quality.

To create an international network as a way of disseminating good practices and model projects.